



Johnson County Parks & Recreation Department will develop, operate and maintain parks that enrich the quality of life for residents and visitors alike, and preserve greenspace for future generations.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Johnson County Park Board of Directors
Johnson County Park Department
Thursday, February 5, 2026

- A.** The regular meeting of the Johnson County Park Board was opened at 6:00p.m. by Park Board President, Dan Cartwright. Gary Cooper, Penny Lee, Scott Jamieson, and Jeri Thompson were also in attendance. Park staff in attendance: Kevin Leonard, Superintendent; Brad Wiser, Assistant Superintendent; and Christy Howe, Recreation Director.
- B. Roll call: Kevin Leonard took roll call of those in attendance.**
- C. Minutes: Gary Cooper moved and Scott Jamieson seconded that January 8, 2026 minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried.**
- D. Other Business: From Floor**
- 1. User Groups:** Peggy Racke updated the Board on the progress of their new building. She asked the Board who needed to sign for the state permit. John Young informed her that all three Park owners would have to sign it, which includes, Johnson County Soil and Water District, Johnson County Commissioners, and Johnson County Park.
- E. Financial Report: Kevin Leonard, Scott Jamieson, and Dan Cartwright**
- 1. Claims:** Kevin discussed the Claims with the Board. **Jeri Thompson moved and Gary Cooper seconded to approve the claims as presented. Motion carried.**
 - 2. Collections Report:** Kevin went over January's Report of Collections and gave the Board the current cash balances for the Parks non-reverting accounts. Dan Cartwright commented that the Board intends to use the cash balance in 2026 to complete several projects and that he has had conversations with the President of the Johnson County Council about the funds. The Board discussed the funds.
 - 3. Year to Date vs Budget:** Kevin gave the Board a spreadsheet showing year-to-date income.
 - 4. Other Business:** Kevin discussed the appropriation process with the Board. This included discussion on the new gazebo, landscaping, and shelter repairs at Independence Park. Kevin informed the Board of the deadline for appropriation request.
- F. Campground Report: Brad Wiser and Jeri Thompson**
- 1. Occupancy:** Brad informed the Board that occupancy would be very low this time of year and generally picks up in April.
 - 2. Reservations:** Brad informed the Board that the campground had 43 nights of camping reserved for the month of January.
 - 3. Revenue and Expenditures:** Brad discussed with the Board how much was brought in on the Report of Collections for the month. He explained how January is usually very high since opening day is always the first workday of the year. The Report of Collections showed \$28,890 for the campground.
 - 4. Needs/Issues:** Brad stated there were no needs or issues at this time. Brad informed the Board that the road expansion should be taking place in February but weather dependent.



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G. Hoosier Horse Park: Brad Wisner and Gary Cooper

1. **Schedule of Events:** Brad informed the Board there are no events for the month of January and the first show will take place in March. There are still 52 events planned for 2026.
2. **New Events:** Brad is still working to add shows to any open spots throughout the year.
3. **Revenue and Expenditures:** Nothing to report this month. Brad confirmed once the shows start he will provide information to the Board and continue communicating activity with Gary Cooper.
4. **Needs/Issues:** Brad informed the Board that some projects involving the Horse Park will be discussed during Capital Improvements. Brad informed the Board that IEA has agreed to a \$6,500 donation for the Aggravator attachment that was discussed last month. Brad will inform Gary and the Board once more donations are received.
5. **Other Business:** Brad informed the Board that he spoke with Bronson Barth. Bronson runs the Barrels for Badges show at the Horse Park in May. Within the first 30 minutes of opening reservations for the show, all stalls were sold out, and 30 temporary stalls were reserved.

H. Independence Park: Kevin Leonard, Brad Wisner, and Penny Lee

Dan Cartwright discussed upgrades coming to Independence Park. Dan discussed the contract with Duke Commercial for the new Gazebo. Dan stated significant improvements would be coming to Independence Park. Gary Cooper recommended the park to get aerial photography of the Park once all the projects are complete to show all the improvements. The Board agreed on the need for photography.

1. **Planned Events:** Nothing to Report.
2. **Improvement:** We are waiting to receive a design for signage from Spotlight Strategies to that will have a QR code for the park website.
3. **Reservations:** Nothing to report.
4. **Needs/Issues:** Brad discussed the needs for new landscaping and the shelters needing new metal roofs. Brad stated this would be discussed more in Capital Improvements.

I. Programs: Christy Howe, and Jeri Thompson

1. **Schedule of Events:** Nothing to report.
2. **New Events:** Christy and Jeri will meet with Jennifer Buchannon this month to discuss a possible military appreciation event this year. The Board discussed the possibilities of the event. Christy informed the board she is working towards a summer concert series and is currently contacting bands for dates.
3. **Revenue and Expenditures:** Christy informed the Board of some vendor fees that were received and payments from campers for the Vintage Camper Rally.
4. **Needs/Issues:** Christy informed the Board that Ramsey Pyrotechnics increased \$1,260 for their firework contract, making their total \$13,800. The Board discussed the increase and were okay with the changes. John Young confirmed that a motion was not necessary. Christy informed the Board she applied for 5 grants from Festival Country: \$1,000 for Vintage Camper Rally, \$2,500 for Military Appreciation Event, \$2,500 for Summer Music Series, \$2,500 for the new Autumn in the Park event, and \$1,500 for Deck the Stalls. Christy informed the Board she is waiting to hear back from Blonde Entertainment and Bouncers R Us. Christy stated she is continuing to work on new sponsors and donations for Park events.
5. **Other Business:** Christy stated that her and Shalee Bradley will be meeting with Angela Umphrey to discuss bringing nature-based education programming to Franklin Cove Apartments. They are interested in hosting a nature and environmental learning day, offering several different programs. Christy stated she would keep the Board informed once she gathers more information. Staff have a meeting with the owner of Midwest Festivals this month. The meeting is to discuss future contracts and the possibility of the group having a storage container on Park property. Christy went over the number of skaters who utilized the ice-skating rink in December. There were 105 skaters on the day of the event, and the week total, including the event, was 199. Kevin Leonard stated he was working to provide set budgets numbers for each event. The Board had a discussion on expanding events for the public and growing the budget for each event.



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J. Capital Improvements: Kevin Leonard, Brad Wiser, Dan Cartwright

1. **Maintenance Concerns:** Brad informed the Board that the Park needed to address the stormwater drainage issues at the Senior Center and is working with a contractor to get that complete. Brad stated he would keep the Board informed.
2. **Equipment Concerns:** Nothing to discuss.
3. **Capital Improvements Projects/Funding:** Brad went through the projects on the agenda and explained the estimated pricing for each. The Board had discussion with each project and agreed to utilize the Parks cash balance for each of the projects.
 - i. **Amphitheater Drainage-**Not to exceed \$30,000. **Gary Cooper moved and Jeri Thompson seconded the approval. Motion carried.**
 - ii. **Dock Replacement-** Not to exceed \$40,000. **Jeri Thompson moved and Scott Jamieson seconded the approval. Motion carried.**
 - iii. **Kayak Rental Station with Rent.Fun-** Not to exceed \$35,000. **Gary Cooper moved and Scott Jamieson seconded the approval. Motion carried.**
 - iv. **Trail Renovation at Independence park-** Not to exceed \$125,000. **Jeri Thompson moved and Gary Cooper seconded the approval. Motion carried.**
 - v. **Landscape Renovation at Independence Park-** Not to exceed \$20,000. **Scott Jamieson moved and Jeri Thompson seconded the approval. Motion carried.**
 - vi. **New Metal on 3 Shelters at Independence Park-** Not to exceed \$20,000. **Gary Cooper moved and Scott Jamieson seconded the approval. Motion carried.**
 - vii. **Campsite Expansions-** Not to exceed \$50,000. **Scott Jamieson moved and Jeri Thompson seconded the approval. Motion carried.**
 - viii. **Campground Firepit with Community Shelter-** Not to exceed \$30,000. **Gary Cooper moved and Scott Jamieson seconded the approval. Motion carried.**
 - ix. **Baker Arena Fans-** Not to exceed \$45,000. **Gary Cooper Moved and Jeri Thompson seconded to approve the purchase. Motion carried.** The Board discussed purchasing fans for Baker with existing funds to get available discounts for the month of March and for Kevin to re-allocate the funds from cash balance.
4. **Master Plan:** Kevin informed the Board that the estimated cost to contract out the master plan would be \$35,000-\$70,000. The Board discussed different options for the 5 Year Plan and agreed that Kevin could put the documents together without contracting outside help.
5. **Other Business:** Brad informed the Board about upcoming improvements to Dunn Arena through bond funding with the Commissioners. The building is scheduled to get a new roof, and the bid process is underway to have the ceiling sandblasted and painted.

K. Superintendent Report: Kevin Leonard

Kevin informed the Board that all full-time positions have been filled and he is currently working on filling seasonal part-time positions. On March 12th, four of the maintenance staff members will attend a maintenance expo.

Kevin asked for the Boards approval to move forward with Aquatic Control's contract for Lake Cottonwood for \$6,279. **Jeri Thompson moved and Scott Jamieson seconded the approval of the contract. Motion carried.**

Kevin asked for the Boards approval to renew White River Broadcasting's contract for \$9,060. **Gary Cooper moved and Jeri Thompson seconded the approval of the contract. Motion carried.**

L. Legal Report: John Young

John stated he is continuing to work with the Board and staff on the projects and with county funding. John stated he is also working with Kevin on the gas line that was hit at the Park and any necessary paperwork that may be needed.



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M. President's Report: Dan Cartwright

Dan mentioned the sewer cost at the Horse Park and the reason for the high monthly bills. Brad informed him that the cost is high because only one meter feeds the Horse Park and because it is a 2-inch meter, the minimum sewer cost is very high. Brad stated the Park is working with Prince's Lakes to resolve the issue.

Scott Jamieson asked Brad if the bridges at Coyote Trace Disc Golf could be repaired. Brad confirmed he would have staff fix any damage to the railings on the bridges. Scott also asked what the status was for the Gatling Gauntlet. John Young informed the Board of the CVT's Board desire to have the course re-opened. There was a lot of discussion on the course. The Board collectively decided that a decision should be made after this spring's legislative session.

Jeri Thompson moved the meeting to be adjourned at 8:12 p.m. Motion carried.

_____ Penny Lee, Secretary